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EXAMINER

TRINH, MINH N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3729

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

29

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/309,747

Applicant(s)

VAN DEN AKER, CORNELIS G.J.

Examiner

Minh Trinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-44 and 49-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40 and 49-52 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-39 and 41-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the "conditional" request for RCE application is acceptable and a RCE has been established. Claims 37-39, and 41-44 are now pending in this application. Claims 40, 49-52 are being drawn to non-elected invention have been withdrawn from further consideration (see paper No. 15, paragraph 3). An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

((a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 37, 39, 41 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Potters (US 6,095,826).

Potters teaches a unitary press block 24 comprising including a generally planar base or bottom 54, a unitary housing with a solid side walls 53 (see Fig. 5b, col. 3, lines 30-50), a plurality of discrete openings or passages 44 there through and the plurality of discrete openings arranged in plurality of rows and columns (see Fig. 5, which shows plurality openings on the base and being arranged in rows and columns, and discussed at col. 2, lines 40-45), and plurality of parallel side walls 49, 51 extending from edges of the base and defining at least two open areas between the side walls in communication with the openings in the base (see Figs. 5b-8, and the discussion at col. 3, lines 40-50).

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; and a vertical face block as recited in claim 39 (see Fig. 1); the press block in a composite of a polymer and fine grain metal as recited in claim 41 (see the discussion at col. 2, lines 65-68, noting a metalized plastic material disclosed by Potters is read as the polymer and fine grain metal of the present invention).

Limitations of claims 39 and 41 are met as discussed above.

As applied to claim 44, Potters teaches a second associated block stackable said press blocks 24 and 26 stackable end to end without a loss contact position.

Note the limitation: "adapted to distribute a force to the terminals during insertion into the substrate and to removably engage the terminals" (claim 37, lines 7-9) are intended use limitation, because the prior art is readable on every detailed structure limitations of the instant therefore the prior art is capable of performing the above functionally intended use limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 42-44 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potters in view of Glover et al (US 4,846,727).

Potters as relied upon above does not teach the limitations of claims 42-43 with respect to the openings being tapered and a surface openings has a convex profile.

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Glover et al disclose the above configurations as shown in the Fig. 4, the openings are tapered and a surface of opening has a convex profile. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the Glover's teaching of openings being tapered and a surface of opening has a convex profile onto the invention of Potters in order to obtain a desired shape and configuration unitary press block without a major modification. The reasons for this obviousness is that one would provide a structure which has accurate size, shape and configuration and requires little or no adjustments.

6. Claims 37-39 and 42-44 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glover et al (US 4,846,727) in view of Clark et al (US 5,504,989).

Glover et al teach a press block comprising including a generally planar base 54, a unitary housing 38 with a solid side walls 48 (see Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 30-35), a plurality of discrete openings 52 there through and the plurality of discrete openings arranged in plurality of rows and columns (see Figs. 2-3, which shows plurality openings on the base 54 and being arranged in rows and columns, and discussed at col. 2, lines 40-45), and plurality of parallel side walls 42, 44 extending from edges of the base and defining at least two open areas between the side walls in communication with the openings in the base (figure 2-3, col. 2, lines 36-44). Glover et al however do not teach the plurality of discrete openings for distribute a force to the terminals during insertion into the substrate and removable engage the terminals from the substrate (as recited in details in claim 37, lines 7-9). Clark et al teach the limitation above (as shown in Fig. 2,

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reference 12 is a press block having a plurality of discrete openings to distribute a force to the terminals during insertion and removable engage the terminals from the substrate). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary having skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the Clark et al 's teaching of a press block having a plurality of discrete openings to distribute a force to the terminals during insertion and removable engage the terminals from the substrate onto the invention of Glover et al in order to obtain a unitary press block housing.

As applied to claim 38, Glover et al teach the rows and columns are being defined by reinforcing member and inserting member (see figure 2, which shows the associated reinforcing member 64 and 18 to define the rows and columns).

Limitation of claim 39 is met as discussed above.

As applied to claim 41, noting Clark et al describe that their press block is a polymer and fine grain metal or metal injection molded (see col. 6, lines 45-55).

Limitations of claims 42-43 are also met as discussed above

As applied to claim 44, Glover et al teach the second stackable mating press block 92 without a loss contact position (see Figure 6).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-2887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7307 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



Examiner Group 3729

mt
September 23, 2003